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Testimony to the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee  
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My name is Roger S. Newton. I support repeal of the dietetics licensure law (House Bill No. 4688). I believe that it has very negative consequences for Michigan's public health and economy.

**In 2011 I was appointed to the Governor's Occupational Licensing Advisory Rules Committee (ARC). Our committee voted 10-1 to de-regulate the dietetics licensure law.** There was no evidence that the law provided protection to the public; however, it was evident that the law established anti-competitive and monopolistic protection for one trade association, the Michigan Dietetic Association, which changed its name in 2012 to the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**I have both Master of Science and PhD degrees in Nutrition. This statute prohibits me from referring to myself or practicing as a "Nutritionist."**

I have spent most of my professional career in the pharmaceutical industry, while pursuing continuing education in nutrition. I am the co-discoverer and product champion of Lipitor <sup>TM</sup>. I started Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. in 1998. I am located in the Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center in Plymouth, MI. I helped to raise over \$250M in venture capital and equity financing and created more than 100 high tech, high paying jobs in Michigan.

I am a co-founder of EsperVita Natural Products, LLC, a start-up company with the goal to research, develop, and commercialize botanical and nutritional products, some of which could be grown and manufactured here in Michigan. I need to hire the Nutritionists of my choice for this company and openly promote their titles and roles. Unless this law is repealed, I will relocate EsperVita to another state.

**The current statute (PA333) is exclusionary, anti-competitive, and monopolistic. It is bad for Michigan's public health, economy, and business.**

PLEASE VOTE YES FOR HB4688